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SPECIAL WOMAN-POWER NUMBER

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

LAW-ABIDING.] ***Societies and Branches in the Union 561.*** [NON-PARTY.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
A Record of Women's Work in War Time	446
Welfare Work in Practice	448
The Munitions Department of the Women's Service Bureau. By Miss Lowndes	450
Educated Women on the Land	452
The N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals	453
Why Women Want the Vote Now	454
Reserves of Power	456
Our Children and the War. By Mr. Cecil Chapman, J.P.	457
"Man to Man." A letter to a One-time Anti-Suffragist	458
Women and Legal Reform. By His Honour Judge Parry	459
The Nationality of Married Women. By Miss Chrystal MacMillan, LL.D.	460
How Women can Use the Municipal Vote	462
War Work of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies	463
Our Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units in Russia. A Year's Record	464

[The National Union does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.]

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MAKING AMMUNITION BOXES.

"Hats off to the Women of Britain! Even all the exertions of the militants shall not in future prevent me from being an advocate for their vote, for those who have helped to save the State should be allowed to help to guide it."—*Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in* THE TIMES, *of November 28th.*

It has been no easy or light matter to women to go out of their homes to serve the nation; for the whole preaching, teaching, and tradition of generations has impressed it upon them that their only place is beside the domestic hearth, and that to leave the sphere of home "is unwomanly."

It has now been brought into all hearts and consciences that women cannot remain by the fireside indifferent, and careless in matters which concern the State—for that word "the State" is only an expression which means essentially the Good of All. It has been proved to us by the most remorseless logic, that the State demands our service, not only in the home, but whenever and wherever the nation needs it. The whole Woman-Power of the Commonwealth must be liberated for service. Laws and regulations for restricting women's activities are being abolished, or sinking into a dead-letter; it is being gradually recognised that women themselves are the best judges of how they can best serve, and that the old system of discriminating, and dictating what they should and should not do, was designed and enforced to protect the supposed interests of others.

How often we have heard about "superfluous women," or the million of "surplus" women in the past! We know, now, that the only superfluous woman is she who refuses the citizen's share of work, and sits at home a complacent "unproductive consumer," satisfied to eat the bread for which others toil, and doing nothing in return.

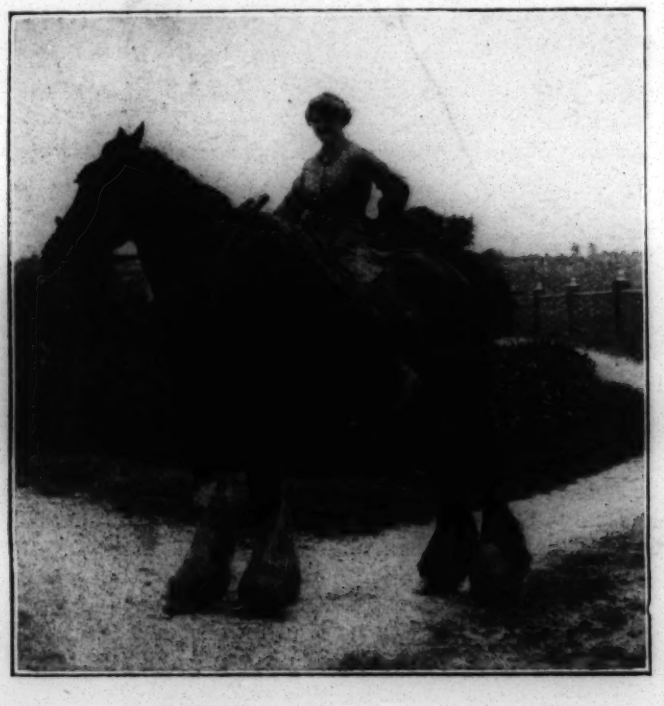
Four millions of the men of Great Britain, roused by the fate of Belgium, have left their homes, their ease, and all that made life sweet, to fight for a great Ideal—the freedom of the souls of the nations. With them in all they do and in all their ways stand the women of Great Britain; for this cause they, too, are expending all their powers, and their hearts and souls are full of the prayer for freedom, freedom to work out the salvation of the State. Service beyond service will be demanded of us; we do not yet see how much will be required, but the final service will be that outlined by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in the glowing words which we reprint above: "Those who have helped to save the State should be allowed to help to guide it."

A Record of Women's Work in War-Time.

In Parliament, in the Press, and from public platforms, unstinted praise has been given to the part that women have played in sustaining the vital forces of the nation at this critical time in our history. To many people it has come as a great surprise that women have been capable of undertaking such responsible work, and such hard work, as they have accomplished.

On some, it has been women's organising powers that have made the most impression. They have seen big enterprises—such as the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals, the Women's Hospital Corps, the Millicent Fawcett Units for Refugees in Russia, and other Hospital Units, various schemes for the relief and housing of Belgian refugees, canteens for soldiers and munition workers, the Women's Emergency Corps, the Women's Service Bureau, and many other undertakings—started and administered either wholly or mainly by feminine effort, and it has been brought home to them how greatly the nation has lost in the past by the waste of women's brain-power and energy. "Women have been too much kept back," was the comment of a foreman in a shell factory to the Chief Lady Factory Inspector when he saw what good work women could do. And what is true of manual work is still more true of work requiring initiative and resource.

After the war broke out the Government were slow to see the possibilities of women's co-operation, even after the need of millions of men for the Army had been grasped. Fortunately, the women did not wait to be asked, nor did they allow themselves to be discouraged by snubs from those in high places. They began to train, as far as opportunity allowed, for different forms of work for which they knew they would be needed, and,



as Lord Charles Beresford put it at a meeting of the Women's Emergency Corps in the early days of the war, they insisted on rendering national service in spite of discouragement. He was amazed, he said, at the initiative and power of organisation they had shown; their energy, sympathy, and grit would be remembered for all time.

Other people have been specially impressed by the work of women doctors, which has been a new element in this war. Rejected at first by the British military authorities, medical women did such excellent work under the French and Belgian Red Cross that they soon gained recognition from our own Army Medical Service. Dr. Garrett Anderson and Dr. Flora Murray, Heads of the Women's Hospital Corps, were appointed to a military hospital at Wimereux, and later on were asked to organise a military hospital at Endell Street, a workhouse having to be adapted and enlarged for this purpose. Given a free hand in its planning and equipment, and in the organisation of the staff, which consists entirely of women, they have made this hospital a notable success.

Medical women are now holding a good many appointments in military hospitals at home, and a number are also working in Malta. At a meeting of the General Medical Council on November 28th, Sir Donald MacAlister paid a tribute to the value of their services. If they could not serve with the ambulance at the front, they could, and did, liberate men who were wanted there by serving at the military hospitals at the bases, both at home and on the Continent. The military authorities were, he said, specially desirous to employ more of them in hospitals for troops at home, and he was sure that all women practitioners who could do so would gladly come forward.

The work of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals in France and Serbia has won world-wide admiration. Originating with Dr. Elsie Inglis, Honorary Secretary of the Scottish Federation of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, the idea of organising hospitals for foreign service, staffed entirely by women, was taken up with enthusiasm by the whole union. Altogether seventy doctors and radiographers, eight administrators, 272 nurses, 237 orderlies, and fifty chauffeurs have served, or are serving, with the Scottish Women's Hospitals.

So great was the impression made upon Dr. Curcin by the courage of the British women doctors and nurses who accompanied him during the retreat of the Serbian Army across Albania and Montenegro that, though formerly an Anti-suffragist, he declared in the October number of *The Englishwoman*, "this war made me see that British women must have the public privileges of men, when their work and services are accepted for the public good like those of men. . . ."

The many thousands of nurses who have served during the war, both at home and abroad, have shown themselves worthy of the tradition of Florence Nightingale, who inaugurated the Army Nursing Service during the Crimean War. As assistants to the trained nurses, members of Voluntary Aid Detachments have proved invaluable. From the V.A.D. Department at Devonshire House, some 6,000 have been posted to military hospitals, and several thousands have been posted by Scottish, Irish, and county branches. In addition to these, many thousands are working in auxiliary and V.A.D. hospitals. A new development during this war has been the employment of women to take the place of men as orderlies, cooks, clerks, dispensers, motor drivers, and in other capacities.

On the land, women have done very valuable work during the past year, and many more will be needed in the spring. The latest Board of Trade estimates, up to July last, give 66,000 as the number of women replacing men in farm work. In addition to these, there must be many hundreds who have worked for a few weeks at a time at hay-making, harvesting, fruit gathering, and in other capacities, thus replacing male casual labour. The Women's National Land Service Corps (to whom we are indebted for the accompanying illustrations) is appealing for educated women, to train as leaders of squads of village women.

A great number of women have replaced men in clerical work and in shops, and some are doing more responsible work than usually fell to the lot of the female staff, in the service of the Government. In the Civil Service, where "small pay and no prospects" has been the rule for women, opportunities and encouragement have hitherto been lacking.

Then there are the Women Munition Makers.

Many people who have hitherto looked upon women's work as of little importance (not realising, perhaps, that even before the war over three million females were engaged in industry), are ready to admit that they are making a really solid contribution towards our national safety, and the success of the Allies.

"Women are now part and parcel of our great army," said the Earl of Derby on July 13th, 1916, at the Queen's Hall. "Without them it would be impossible for progress to be made, but with them I believe that victory can be assured."

On the same occasion, Lord Sydenham stated that in his opinion the great advance of our splendid Army could not have been accomplished but for the untiring labour of women. They might fairly claim that they had helped to save thousands of lives, to change the aspect of the war, and to launch our Army on the new road which leads to victory.

Mr. Asquith, too, has paid his tribute to the woman munition maker, and others who are doing men's work. In a memorable speech on the Second Reading of the Special Register Bill, he admitted that the women of this country have rendered as effective service in the prosecution of the war as any other class of the community. "It is true they cannot fight, in the gross material sense of going out with rifles and so forth, but they fill our munition factories, they are doing the work which the men who are fighting had to perform before, they have taken their places, they are the servants of the State, and they have aided in the most effective way in the prosecution of the war."

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MAKING SHELLS.

It is not only in the manufacture of actual munitions of war that women are rendering national service: they are also helping to maintain the export trade by which we must pay for the war. Much of the work they are doing is very heavy, such as few people would have thought it possible for women to perform. Yet they are doing it with great success.

According to statistics furnished by the Board of Trade, in July last some 766,000 women were reported by employers as

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actually replacing men. A considerable number more have, no doubt, been employed without being so reported, and as the process of substitution has been going on very much more rapidly during the last three months than ever before, it seems safe to hazard a guess that at least a million men have by now been set free by women.

Even those who only sit and sew or roll bandages are helping in a very substantial way to maintain the efficiency of our troops, while by making many of the garments needed in trench and hospital, they are setting free for other necessary work women who might otherwise be employed in making these things in factory or workshop. All over the country, *depôts* have been set up for the making and collection of hospital necessaries, and the work is now so well organised that an adequate supply is maintained without wastage. To give an idea of the scale of this voluntary effort, in the Kensington War Supply *Depôts* alone there are some 2,500 workers every week, and the Central Work Rooms at the Royal Academy have an average of 243 workers a week.

Altogether the record of women during the war is something of which they may well be proud, but they might have done much more if opportunities for training had been organised earlier. A still bigger effort needs to be made in the future if we are to obtain the victory we mean to win. Women are being called upon for munition work, clerical work, for work upon the land, and in many capacities, and thousands must answer the call.

M. M.

Welfare Work in Practice.

A Record of First-Fruits.

In previous issues of The Common Cause have been noted the fresh developments in factory life which have sprung out of the war, and the consequent transformation of a large part of industrial England into a huge arsenal. It was then stated that an expert body, the Health of Munition Workers' Committee, had been appointed by the State to consider all questions relating to the personal interests of the employees in munition factories, and that a Welfare Department in the Ministry of Munitions had been created, "charged with the general responsibility of securing a high standard of conditions" for these workers.

Since then, the movement has given proof of surprising growth; Welfare Supervisors are being appointed to the munition factories in increasing numbers; the management of other works, fighting shy of the term "Welfare Work," have, nevertheless, been influenced to make their own informal arrangements for the comfort of their "female operators"; and in other establishments where a Welfare Supervisor has been in office since the ancient times of twelve months ago, the first fruits of her exertions are already in evidence.

It may, therefore, be justifiable, even in these days of paper shortage, to jot down a few notes by way of contribution to a preliminary record of what has been achieved in this connection.

I have been recently privileged to see some of the developments of this movement for Welfare Supervision in Munition Works both in the Metropolitan area and in the Provinces, and have returned from the tour with a deepened conviction as to the necessity for the work and the capacity of many women for its accomplishment.

One or two concrete examples may serve in illustration.

Before the war, women's work was hardly known in the solemn and secret precincts of Woolwich Arsenal. To-day, there are more than 15,000 women working there on alternate day and night shifts. Some are occupied in making shells or fuses, others are "assembling parts," or "overlooking," or gauging shells; some are "trucking" (that is, engaged in light trolley work), and others are working in what is known as the Danger Zone. An impartial visitor walking through the miles of "shops" and platforms of the Arsenal, could not help being impressed by the general atmosphere of happiness, contentment, and health of the women workers. It is rare to see a sickly face amongst them, including the operators in the Danger Zone; this, at least, is my experience after two lengthy visits to various Shops in the Arsenal. All these women, drawn from various grades of society, must be suitably employed, transferred when necessary, housed, fed, and clothed with protective garments, according to the nature of their operations. That this huge task is satisfactorily accomplished is obvious even to a casual observer. The open secret of this successful enterprise is that the right type of woman is in charge.

It may be objected that the Lady Superintendent of the Arsenal is exceptional, a super-woman, in fact; but it is safe to affirm that there are other women in the country with a similar outlook. Meantime, a high standard of welfare work has been established at Woolwich which can be propagated in time, even in the backward places of the industrial world.

The Lady Superintendent of Woolwich deals with a very complete programme of Welfare Work. It is she who interviews the new "hands," and arranges any necessary transferences in the women's work. She enquires into all complaints from the women workers, advises as to protective clothing, keeps an eye on the organisation of the huge canteens, initiates schemes for recreation, aids with the housing of the immigrant industrial workers, suggests improvements in factory conditions, and is awake to signs of illness or over-fatigue amongst the women under her care. Added to these duties, she is continuously training a staff of assistants, either to aid in her own work, or to carry a wholesome and wide-minded tradition to Provincial centres.

This super-woman handles her stupendous task with the good humour and wisdom of an ideal statesman. No girl is refused a hearing, however trivial her difficulty, and a grievance as to the colour of a factory cap is discussed with as much gravity with one employee as the causes of a "shop" disagreement is with another more serious complainant. The complete confidence of the women workers is thereby gained, and grievances, instead of smouldering, are brought to the Welfare Supervisor's office for rational discussion and settlement.

The "Danger Zone" of the Arsenal shares this intelligent supervision, and the provision made for the women workers appears adequate and sensible. The arrangements for ablutions, including baths, are good. With regard to protective garments, each girl is clothed in an asbestos coat and cap, and is provided with shoes having nail-less soles.

The housing of the immigrant workers has been tackled in a similar enlightened spirit. Hostels have been erected, lodgings inspected and, where suitable, scheduled. Hutments have also been built for married couples.

A hostel for 700 workers, formally opened at the end of last month (November, 1916) goes far to demonstrate what can be accomplished in home-making for single working-women. The rest-rooms, dining-rooms, bed-rooms, bath-rooms, and sick-room accommodation are excellent, and a sane spirit prevailing amongst the management has minimised "Rules." The co-operation of a Girl-Residents' Committee is also invited. "Smoking is allowed at this end of the rest-room," said the Superintendent to me during a recent visit, "but since we have permitted this recreation, it seems to have fallen out of favour." She smiled sagaciously, and the listener recognised in the hostel a vital influence on the lives of many girls.

There is a waiting-room for men visitors, and a man-friend, instead of being *taboo*, may be invited by the Management to a weekly dance, on condition that his name and address is handed in by the girl-resident two days in advance.

In such conditions it is not surprising that the residents look happy and at home, and, incidentally, a working model is provided for other industrial housing schemes.

Another example of the triumph of Welfare Supervision may be cited from the North Country.

In a factory where women had not been employed previously to the war, the principle of Welfare Supervision has not been formally adopted. The Management—shrewd Yorkshiremen—selected, however, a woman of the right type to be in charge of the female operators. What this one brain has evolved and this one will has materialised is amazing.

She has devised a cloak-room in which every inch of space is used to best advantage. It contains the maximum of wash-basins to the floor-space, and its walls are furnished with mirrors shaped horizontally (to avoid crushing before sparsely provided long mirrors). Each girl has a locker with lock and key (the problem of lost keys having soon been solved), and

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DRILLING AND TAPPING AIR VENT TAPPINGS IN RADIATORS.

there is a generous supply of clean towels. A sixpenny dinner (consisting in November, 1916, of meat, two vegetables, and pudding) is purveyed, and, by a wise arrangement, the gaudy or highly-seasoned unnourishing mid-day snack is prevented. Despite factory regulations as to shifts and rest-periods, this wise forewoman "manages" afternoon-tea, the girls paying 2d. weekly on Saturdays to obviate daily loss of time. This Superintendent is not even dignified by the title of Welfare Superintendent, and seems quite unconscious of the sublimity of her common-sense. "I just tried and changed things round till they seemed right," she said, in explanation of her methods.

An enlightened Management is obviously an essential factor in this as in any other essay for good conditions for the women munition-makers, but similar successful experiments throughout the country are providing a record of what women have done for women even amidst the distractions, cares, and bitter griefs occasioned by the war.

It is an encouraging record, and none the less so, even if factories still exist where conditions leave much to be desired.

Welfare Supervision in the hands of competent people, it may then be claimed, is socially a stride forward. The hope burns more brightly on this account that the co-operation and courage of the women of this country may hasten the day when the age of true industrial conquest shall dawn.

In the words of the author of *The Industrial Day*: "If into dark places, light may come, if for penury, plenty may be had; if for sickness, we may have health, if for anxiety we may substitute peace, surely it is worth doing."

L. K. Y.

The Munitions Department of the Women's Service Bureau.

Among the different pieces of work for sustaining the strength of the nation and utilising the services of women, undertaken by the London Society during the war, one of the most interesting is what has been called the "Munitions Department." "Munitions" is a word that has acquired a somewhat varied meaning of late, and is now understood to apply quite as much to objects made out of glass as to the products of steel and iron. The "Munitions Department" of the London Society has concerned itself with organising classes for training women in some form of "munitions," as well as with furnishing suitable applicants for many posts in factories and elsewhere when training is not necessary, or where it is provided by the Government. A large room in one of the Society's workshops is now occupied by a class of women studying glass-blowing—and a very fascinating craft it is.

There are two sorts of glass-blowing. One is done "off the furnace," and signifies collecting molten glass from the furnace-pots on a long iron blow-pipe, and blowing it into moulds, or in other ways manipulating it. The other pursuit is called "lamp glass blowing," and is a method used for making objects needed for laboratory work and in medicine. It is this craft which is pursued in the London Society's workshop.

No glass furnace is required; all the objects made are formed out of glass rods and tubes of different sizes, which are bought by weight for the use of the students. Each glass-blower has a lamp before her, standing on the bench; this lamp or blow-pipe has a gas flame, which is regulated by a blast of air worked by foot-bellows, and in this flame the glass-worker manipulates her glass tube, making it do strange things as she acquires skill, and producing fascinating little objects by gentle persuasion of the breath.

Glass-blowing is undoubtedly a difficult craft; and from six weeks to two months continual practice is needed for the acquiring of skill which can be of any commercial value. It is, however, a gentle industry, requiring patience rather than strength, and is pursued sitting.

Some of the London Society workers have also had the opportunity of acquiring some knowledge of the manipulation of Quartz Glass, a substance very different to the ordinary glass of commerce. This somewhat intractable product requires great heat for its reduction, and is best manipulated in the oxy-acetylene flame. It has very curious properties, and may be plunged white-hot into cold water with impunity—no crack occurring. It is probable that here for the first time women in England have been learning to make commercial objects in Quartz Glass.

The training in Oxy-Acetylene Welding given in the Workshops of the London Society is already familiar to readers of The Common Cause. This work has been going on steadily since September in last year, and has, we venture to think, rendered a real service to the Aircraft factories of England. Each such factory requires a certain number of acetylene welders, and when the London Society School was first started, all such welders were men, and there were not nearly enough of them. In the Board of Trade lists of starred skilled men at the Labour Exchanges, the first trade to be named in London was "Acetylene Welders." This trade is not starred now; the Notting Hill Welding School has provided efficient women substitutes to take the men's places. Each factory requires a small team of welders, five or six, perhaps, or fewer; and as we now have about 100 women welders in full work in different parts of London and the country, it will be seen that the supply of really efficient skilled workers turned out in fifteen months has been no negligible undertaking. The demand for trained women is almost greater than we can supply; since certain qualities of character, and a good standard of mechanical aptitude are indispensable for this work.

THE OXY-ACETYLENE WELDING SCHOOL.

Readers of The Common Cause should not neglect to urge any young women with whom they are acquainted, who might be suitable to the work, to turn their attention to this matter. The production of more aeroplanes is vital to the success of our arms abroad and to defence at home. Our young men are in posts of danger everywhere. The girls will surely stand by them, and by careful and conscientious labour help to assure their safety and success.

Mary Lowndes.

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Uncle Laban on Women's Work.

BY HILDA C. ADSHEAD.

"Ah!" said Uncle Laban, looking over the top of his paper at Mrs. Buttletub, who was spending the day with him and his wife. "There's a very sensible article in this here paper, a chap that knows what he's talking about; I don't suppose you'll agree, though—you don't as a rule."

"Give me the chance of hearing what the sensible man's got to say," said Mrs. Buttletub tranquilly. "I like sensible men."

Uncle Laban gave her a quick glance; but seeing her calm and serene as usual over her knitting, he cleared his throat and spoke grimly.

"This feller says that women ought to take a hand in this food problem. He says it's the women that feel it; that they have to manage on same money for higher priced food; that lots of 'em will have to go without, and that altogether it is really a woman's job, food is. Perhaps you'll say no?" he asked, glaring at Mrs. Buttletub suspiciously over his glasses.

"Not at all; I do think it's the women's job," said Mrs. Buttletub.

"Ah!" said Uncle Laban relieved, "then you agree with this here chap? He says it's up to the women to see to it—that they'd ought to have took hold of it long ago. He says if women would give up asking for the vote and do the things that's really in their line, they'd do a lot more for their country than what they do, and would do themselves more good. Men would respect 'em more."

"I see," said Mrs. Buttletub. "Does he suggest how it's to be done?" she enquired meekly.

"Oh, ah well, that's up to the women!" said Uncle Laban. "If they'd take hold in a proper manner they'd do a lot more good than by calling out that they want votes and trying to do a man's job."

"Seems from what you and this here sensible feller says that the men's trying to do the women's jobs," said Mrs. Buttletub placidly.

"That's because the women don't do their duty," shouted Uncle Laban. "They're running off howling for votes while all the time here's their plain duty—a thing they *can* do—a thing they understand staring of 'em in the face!"

"Does the sensible feller explain how they're to set about it?" Mrs. Buttletub insisted, as she began to turn her heel. "Any ideas as to *how* they're to take hold?"

Uncle Laban glared. "I've told you," he said shortly. "Where there's a will there's a way. Women don't try to take hold. They're set on silly notions instead of minding their own business!"

Mrs. Buttletub was silent, her lips moving as she counted stitches.

"Laban," she said meekly, when she had got her number right, "supposing a man from the street, some person that knew about your business, but hadn't got one of his own, came in and told your men what to do, would they do it?"

"What silly questions you do ask!" said Uncle Laban contemptuously. "'Course they wouldn't!"

"Not if he knew all about it?" said Mrs. Buttletub. "Why shouldn't they?"

Uncle Laban put down his newspaper, took off his glasses, and set himself to correct the ignorance of this foolish female.

"My business," he stated succinctly, "is mine—I pay my men, I give 'em orders. If anyone walked in and tried to tell them what to do, they'd laugh in his face. Doesn't matter *how* much he knows. He's not their boss. *I* am. *That's* why." "I see," said Mrs. Buttletub meekly. "I suppose that's right?"

"Right! Of course it's right. If they don't do what I tell 'em, they go. Anyone else's orders they can laugh at. You women, you do have funny ideas about business. I thought you was more sensible," added Uncle Laban reproachfully.

"I'm only thinking," said Mrs. Buttletub, intent on her work, "that we women are about in the same position as some strange man walking in from the street would be with your workmen. We don't count. They can laugh at us. It don't matter how much better we could do the work. It don't matter that we help to pay wages which the man I'm thinking of wouldn't—they know they can laugh at us and anything we want to do they can shove aside. That's why we don't tackle the food problem, Laban, and that's why we want the vote."

Uncle Laban opened his mouth to speak, shut it again, put on his glasses, and busied himself behind his paper. Mrs. Buttletub turned her heel.

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Educated Women on the Land.

There has been a great increase, since the war, in the number of women employed in agriculture, but many more are wanted at once to train, in order that they may take the places of men who are being called up. The prejudice of farmers against employing women has been very great, but it is being gradually overcome, as the more conservative among them see how well the experiments of the pioneers have answered. Now the supply of workers is not equal to the farmers' demands; and the Women's National Land Service Corps is appealing for educated women to train, in order that they may act as organisers and leaders.

By this time every county has its Women's Committee, in connection with the County War Agriculture Committee, and most districts have a local secretary. If two or three better educated women in each district would take a short training in farm work, and then go round among the village women, telling them they are going to work for Farmer So-and-So, and asking for helpers, a much greater number of women would come forward. But it must be borne in mind that country women are better off than they have ever been before, owing to the separation allowances which they are receiving, and they are not at all inclined to go out to work. Besides the tradition that it is *infra dig* for women to work upon the land lingers long in many places. But if the parson's daughter, and the farmer's daughter, and all the better educated women in a district who are free, turn to and set a good example, the labourer's wives will not be slow to follow. An appeal to their patriotism made in the right way rarely fails to take effect; but preaching, without example, is apt to fall on deaf ears.

It is a great help to farmers if educated women will get the villagers together and organise them. As a rule, they much prefer to deal with one responsible woman who will arrange about wages and conditions of labour for her party, and will, to a certain extent, act as overseer.

On one occasion a farmer was remarking gloomily that all his fine crop of plums was rotting, and there was no one to gather them. A girl who was employed to drive his motor-van to and from the station happened to overhear him.

"I'll soon get your plums gathered," she announced.

The farmer laughed good-humouredly, and asked how she proposed to perform this miracle.

"Let me take the motor-van to-morrow before the milk goes, and you'll see," was the confident reply.

The farmer agreed; for he had found this young woman remarkably capable. She had a way of persuading railway officials to do what they had firmly declared to be impossible in the way of hastening the transit of market produce.

So very early in the morning the girl drove off to the nearest village with her van, and in less than two hours she had it packed with laughing helpers, including a few active boys, and was back again at the farm.

This was only an emergency measure to save one special crop. The following is an instance, taken from the report of the Women's National Land Service Corps, of how women have been organised into squads, under a leader, for regular work:—

Miss X. had a short war course. She was sent as leader of a small squad of educated women to a neighbourhood where village women had refused to go on the Register. She started by working for a farmer. After a week or two she was asked by the farmer if she could not get some of the village women to come and hoe with her, as he was so short-handed. She did this with success. A neighbouring farmer then approached her and asked if she could not get some for him. She went into the neighbouring town, and was put into touch with the County War Agricultural Committee, and through them interviewed various women on their books and took a gang out herself, and set them to work. She was then approached by a third farmer in the neighbourhood.

Educated women who understand country conditions have a big opportunity for national service. Farmers on their side must realise that if they need efficient workers they must pay reasonable wages, and provide decent accommodation. In many districts the wages are quite inadequate—sometimes not even sufficient to cover the actual cost of living—and the accommodation and housekeeping arrangements provided for parties of workers have meant unaccustomed and trying discomfort for women who would have performed the actual work well and without a murmur. It is very necessary that some responsible person should be sent down in advance to inspect the arrangements made for lodging before a party is sent to any farm. As a rule, workers seem to prefer having a cottage of their own, two or three of them together, even if the furniture is very rough and scanty, and when there are several in the party and they can arrange to take it in turns to stay at home to do the housework, the plan seems to answer very well.

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N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service.

At the present time the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals are still maintaining their hospital at Royaumont under the French Military Authorities (opened in January, 1915). This has been enlarged to 400 beds, and is doing very valuable work, the X Ray department being the best for many miles round. Another Unit, formerly at Troyes, is now in Salonika. It will be remembered by many of our readers that Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals did excellent work in Serbia in coping with various epidemics and that many of the personnel were taken prisoners during the great retreat, suffering many hardships before they were finally released. Undaunted by this experience, Dr. Elsie Inglis, the originator of the whole scheme, went out again last August, at the head of a large unit of about seventy-six persons, equipped by the London Society for W.S., to work in the Balkans, many of the old staff accompanying her. After a journey through Russia they arrived close to the Roumanian front in the Dobrudja at the end of September.

At Medjidia a base hospital was set up with a field hospital nearer the front, but after a fortnight the evacuation of Medjidia was ordered, and the hospital was forced to retreat with the Army, travelling in almost the last train to cross the Tchernovado Bridge before it was destroyed. Dr. Inglis was still tending the wounded that kept pouring in when the order for evacuation came, and some 2,000 were passed through the Hospital afterwards, being taken straight on to the train as soon as they had been treated, whenever this was possible. A cable received in November announced the safe arrival of the unit and its equipment (except for a lorry and motor kitchen) at Odessa.

The Unit under Dr. Inglis is the most important individual enterprise which the London Committee has yet undertaken, and support is urgently needed. With the hospitals went a transport column, under the Hon. Evelina Haverfield, consisting of eight ambulances, two kitchen cars, a repair car, four lorries, and three touring cars, with a large staff of chauffeurs and cooks, The upkeep of this Unit represents a very heavy expense.

Another unit, under Dr. Agnes Bennett, is working near Monastir with the Serbian Army, and attached to it is a mobile Transport Column under Mrs. Harley. This unit had many exciting adventures on the way up country, arriving at the site chosen for their camp in the midst of a bombardment. From a little distance above the camp, which is situated on the side of a lake right up among the mountains, the flash of firing could be seen, and the roar of guns was heard day and night.

SULIPAN RAMARA.

The French Military Authorities are much impressed by the ease with which the Senegalese patients are managed at Royaument, in a hospital staffed entirely by women.

At the time of going to press no fresh news has come through of Dr. Bennett's Unit. When last heard of they were working at high pressure, and very serious cases were coming in. The men, they say, are wonderfully patient and grateful, and fortunately the Serbians are able to keep the Unit well supplied with food.

Some of the personnel of the old Serbian units are now working under Dr. Mary Phillips in Corsica, where all the medical work in connection with Serbian refugees has been put in their hands by the French Military Authorities. A few weeks ago, the Hospital was inspected by Général Very, who had a short time before inspected Royaumont. He was most complimentary about everything, and specially interested in the outdoor treatment of tubercular cases in tents.

Funds are greatly needed to carry on the work of the Hospitals. Donations will be gratefully received by Mrs. Laurie, The Red House, Greenock, Scotland.

Donations for the London Units should be sent to the Lady Cowdray, and the Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves, 66, Victoria-street.

[Owing to pressure on our space we are obliged to hold over the weekly list of donations to the Scottish Women's Hospitals.]

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Why Women Want the Vote Now.

Women want the vote *NOW*, in order that they may help to choose members for the first Parliament that will meet after the war.

The Nation Needs Women's Help.

This Parliament will have very difficult work to do, and it will need all the help that both men and women can give in making wise decisions. Great changes have taken place in our national life since the war began, and women have taken a much larger part in it than ever before. Greater changes will take place when the war is over, and hasty legislature may perhaps be passed to cope with some of the difficulties that will arise. There is danger that women's interests and women's point of view will be overlooked, and far-reaching harm done. The men will, perhaps, not have much time to consider their own special interests and their own point of view with much care, because it will be so urgent to decide quickly what is to be done, and they cannot be expected to think for the women too.

Women Must Shoulder their Share of the Burden.

Women must do their own thinking, and must think for the children as well, and they must be prepared to take their share of responsibility as citizens at a time which will be one of the most critical and difficult in all our history.

One of the questions that will have to be dealt with will be the great shifting of labour from one trade to another, and finding work for all the men disbanded from the Army without throwing out of work men and women now employed. This is a gigantic task. Women must help to protect their husbands and sons and brothers coming back from the war. They must see to it that disabled men are fairly treated with regard to pensions, and not deprived of the whole or part of what is due to them on some flimsy pretext; and they must insist that disabled men shall be trained for such work as they can do—not left to depend on a pension only. They must see, too, that women and girls are not turned wholesale out of trades in which they have learnt to do skilled work, and sent to work in trades where they can only earn a very small wage as unskilled workers.

They Will Stand by the Men.

There will be plenty of room for all the skilled and semi-skilled workers we have, both male and female, if only our organisation is sufficiently good, and every effort made to extend our trade. If, out of foolish sex jealousy, men refuse to allow women to make the best use of their skill and of their brains, the nation must suffer.

Suffragists are convinced that women will stand by the men and not allow themselves to be used by unscrupulous employers to cut down the rate of pay and throw male employees out of work, if only the men will be loyal to them, and not try to keep them only to unskilled and badly-paid trades. So many women have others dependent upon them now, because the men of their families have been killed or disabled in the war, that they need good pay quite as much as the father of a family needs it.

They Must Safeguard their Homes.

Another big question that is already troubling many people is the spread of the terrible disease that always increases after a war. Means must be taken for combating this disease, which is responsible for so much misery, so many early deaths, and so many unhealthy and feeble-minded children. But women must watch carefully what is being done, and see to it that measures are not taken only against a certain class of women, with a view to making vice safer for men, while no measures are taken to prevent the spreading of the disease by men to innocent wives and children. They must safeguard their home, and see that their boys are brought up with a higher moral standard.

They will Care for the Children and the Mothers.

Then there are the little children of the poor to care for. The war has made people realise better than ever before the value of children. Many fresh infant welfare centres and schools for mothers have been started during the last two years, but a very great deal more needs to be done before we can say that the children of the nation are really properly looked after. Women must see to it that every baby gets a fair chance, and that the mothers are cared for as well.

These are only a few out of many other problems that will arise; but they serve to show how badly women's wisdom as well as men's will be needed.

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The Vote Helps Women to do their Own Work Better.

In theory, men acknowledge that it is very important for the children of a nation to be well cared for, and they are beginning to realise how necessary it is that mothers should be cared for too, both before and after their baby's birth. But they are apt to grow weary when such things as the supply of pure milk come up for discussion in Parliament; and so legislation for the benefit of women and children is often put on one side and delayed, not because men are opposed to it, but because most of them are more interested in other things. After all, the care of children, and of the sick, and of the old, is mainly a woman's job, and it is largely because they find that they are not able to do this job—and many others—so well without the vote that they are asking to be enfranchised now.

It is true that many laws for the benefit of women and children have been passed in England without the women's vote. There are various societies all over the country that watch over women's interests, and put their views before the Government and before members of Parliament, so that they may at least know what women think on certain subjects. These women's societies are not without influence, and in some cases they have been able to do a good deal in helping forward reforms; but they would be able to get these reforms passed far more easily if their members were voters. In some cases it has looked very much as if reforms have been granted as a sop to the women's associations, in the hopes of keeping them quiet and persuading them to drop their larger claims. It is significant that in the U.S.A. more attention is always given to women's views where there is a strong Suffrage organisation than when it is weak. In South Carolina, for instance, where there is no Suffrage Association, and the movement is still in its infancy, the laws affecting women are very bad indeed.

Here are a few examples of how the vote has helped women to get what they want quickly and easily :—

In Illinois (U.S.A.) women won partial franchise in 1913. They were already very well organised in this State, so they lost no time in making up their minds what they wanted, and demanding it. Within a very short time the Legislature had passed seven out of nine Bills which they commended. These included one for the suppression of disorderly houses, and another for protecting young girls until they are eighteen, instead of only to the age of sixteen, as in this country, and many others where women do not vote.

In all American States where women are enfranchised, laws have been passed giving the mother the same rights as the father over their children. In Massachusetts, women worked hard for fifty-five years before they could get a law for the equal guardianship of children passed. In Colorado, the first year they had the vote women got this law passed without any difficulty. The question gained public attention through a particularly unjust case. A consumptive man, whose wife had supported him for years, and nursed him with the utmost devotion, left directions when he died that their child was to be sent to his parents to be brought up, and as the law then stood the mother had to submit.

An equal guardianship law was also passed in California the first year after women were enfranchised. For nine years previously they had worked in vain to win this reform, but the Legislature had denied it. When the women got the vote it was passed without a single dissentient. A movement for giving the mother greater rights over her children was started in this country as long ago as 1836, owing to a particularly hard case that aroused public sympathy, and though much improvement has been affected, this reform has not been completed yet.

Preparing to Use the Vote.

As soon as women obtain the vote in any State they form themselves into Political Clubs (known by various titles in different States). They study political and social questions with great care and draw up a programme. Then, when there is an election, they summon each candidate and tell him what they want, and he has to say definitely whether he will vote for it or not. Very often the candidates do not wait to be asked. They take care to find out what the women want and put it in their programme.

Englishwomen have a number of well-organised societies already, and are in a good position to press for reforms once they have obtained the vote; provided that they know what they want. It is therefore urgent that they should begin to prepare themselves to use their vote to the best advantage as soon as they get it.

M. M.

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Reserves of Power.

Once upon a time—in Lancashire they tell this tale—a man in a violent hurry rushed into a mail-coach office. The room had only one occupant, an elderly Quaker, wrapped in meditation. To him the man in a hurry shouted, distraught, "The London coach hasn't gone yet, has it?" The Quaker (so they say) replied sedately, still meditating, "First, friend, thou tellest me a lie, and then thou askest me a question!"

All our sympathies go out to the man in a hurry; and yet—— When, only a week ago, a woman said, speaking hastily no doubt (like the passenger), "Women really have everything they want now, with all these new openings; so we don't need the Suffrage, do we?" For once we felt, for the first time, a sort of kindness for the Quaker. The first part of the remark is so obviously untrue, the second so wild and rash a conclusion drawn from an untrue statement.

Let us consider what has happened. Before the outbreak of war, over three millions of women were occupied in gainful pursuits; since 1914, about 866,000 women are known to have joined the army of workers; many others, no doubt are working who elude any kind of census in private capacities and small trades. But, large as the increase is, it hardly bears out the contention that women have all the opportunities they need, or that the opportunities they get are adapted to enable them to make the best use of their powers. The idea of getting the real value of the nation's woman power has not yet dawned upon employers. The goddess, or, rather, the god, of hap-hazard seems to preside over the shifts and shiftings of the labour-market, but he usually sees to it that the dice are loaded against the "weaker" sex. Let us face the facts. Men are too much occupied and pre-occupied to apply their thinking-powers for the benefit of women; and even with the best wish in the world, are, for the most part, incapable of the mental effort of realising women's problems. To expect one-half of the race to undertake to be wise for the whole is to ask too much of human nature.

"Civilisation," wrote Professors Geddes and Thomson just before the war, "has brought us to face problems which women are more capable of solving than men." The war has certainly brought us face to face with gigantic problems which neither men nor women can solve separately, for they go down to the very roots of national being, and never in our history has it been so imperative that women should have a voice in national affairs.

The women are being appealed to by trumpet-call to leave the home, and to enter domains where legislation is immensely powerful for good and evil. Women's trade unions are as yet in their infancy, and have hardly learned to express themselves in the kind of speech which reaches legislators' ears, while the great men's organisations, fully grown and equipped, have their hands always upon the lever which controls the great machine of legislation—they have the vote and have learnt how to apply its power. But the women workers must take their places amid this huge national machinery, unprotected and without any safeguards. Never yet have we so sorely needed the vote, if only as a measure of protection. It is precisely these aspects of the industrial position of women after the war that have convinced Mr. Asquith that it will not be possible to ignore "their claim to be heard."

But here is another and even better grounded reason for women's enfranchisement than the need of safeguards—the need of women's service; the reserves upon which the nation will draw more heavily still are reserves of brain and will-power, of common-sense, of fortitude, enthusiasm, and adaptability to rapidly changing conditions. We shall want all these to the uttermost, and to lock them away and stifle their effective expressions is to cripple national life.

We have spoken of the future in trade, we know it is being prepared in the workshops where women are learning to

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co-operate with men, and acquiring the skill which we are going to use. But the national work of women will always be largely done in the home. Already our politicians and statisticians are so much pre-occupied with the birth-rate, the rise or decline of infant mortality, that there is great anxiety in some high quarters to create "machinery" to deal with mothers, children, and the home generally. The unfortunate part of it is that these enthusiasts, in their eagerness that "the population" should increase, do really believe in the infallibility of their machinery, and are only too ready to invent rules, regulations, and laws to apply to women and children. These gentlemen, if they only could compass it, would legally "compel" mothers to mother their children according to Act of Parliament. Social legislation is fast invading the home, as it has invaded other provinces of daily life. Whether it is wise, is another matter. But wise or unwise, those most concerned cannot help themselves. What may be called "fad" legislating (for women only) is extremely attractive to a certain make of mind which is unable to gratify the passion by legislating for men, for they, having the vote, can stand up for themselves. Laying down the law to or for women is decidedly a less dangerous amusement. It is always a moot question how far "machinery," however cunningly contrived, can be applied to human relationships, and "machine-made" homes, never so wisely legislated for, should always, one thinks, prove a poor substitute for the home-made home. But whatever rules, regulations, or Acts of Parliament are conceived and framed with a view to improving the quality or quantity of the next generation, they will quite certainly prove impossible and intolerable unless the women—the women of Great Britain—have their say in the matter. At present they have none whatever.

Our Children and the War.

One startling and distressing result of the war has been the undoubted and very marked increase of criminality amongst children in the belligerent countries. A similar increase, but in lesser degree, has been observed in neutral countries whose conditions have been materially changed. The first discovery of this phenomenon caused universal surprise, and led to the supposition that it was an isolated and temporary matter, due to the absence of the father, more than to anything else. Further consideration shewed that, as the increase also took place in neutral countries, the explanation offered was not a sufficient one.

The truth is that many causes have contributed to the result, and only a very few are peculiar to children. The crime which has so largely increased is that of theft, and every day brings fresh evidence to show that pilfering amongst adults has increased to an alarming extent wherever the war conditions have seriously interfered with the home. We must not be deceived by the fact that in certain districts prisons have been converted into hospitals, for lack of prisoners, and that at certain Assizes and Sessions, Judges have congratulated the country on the decrease of crime. This has happened naturally enough in places where the population has diminished, and nothing has occurred in connection with the war to bring a new population to take the place of the old, or to affect seriously the position of those who are left behind. In London and other great centres where there is an immense amount of transport going on, wharfingers, steamship companies, railway companies, and carriers, as well as large wholesale and retail dealers of every sort in goods required by the troops, complain that pilfering has increased 50 per cent., 100 per cent., and sometimes 200 per cent. It has caused and is causing great anxiety, because the evil is not limited to casual labourers or new hands, but is often traced to servants of old standing and good reputation. These cases rarely get to Sessions or Assizes. The conclusion to be deduced from this state of things is that the war has caused a general relaxation of moral fibre in the sphere of common honesty which has betrayed itself, I am sorry to say, at the front amongst soldiers and camp followers, and in hospitals, as well as at home in ordinary life.

I have enlarged upon this because, in my opinion, it lifts a certain weight from the shoulders of children which surprise and carelessness in thinking have inclined people to put upon them unfairly. It is true that children have become less disciplined in many families where the father is away, and their spirit of adventure has been fostered and directed into bad channels by low and thoroughly mischievous cinematograph theatres. Greater opportunity has been given them too to play the part of highwaymen, shop-lifters, and van thieves by the artificial darkness of the streets.

Taking all these matters into consideration, I find less reason for surprise than for sorrow that thieving amongst children has increased some 50 per cent. Children are like sensitive plants, immediately affected by change of atmosphere, whereas their parents have got what ought to be the protection of established habits to guard against disturbance from unexpected shocks. If, then, it is true that the demoralisation in both is at least equal, the blame should certainly fall in larger measure upon the parents than the children. I dare say many people will be inclined to think that war, which produces so many examples of heroic courage and self-sacrifice in women as well as in men, should elevate a nation, and increase its sense of brotherhood. Perhaps it ought to; and I have heard that, historically, short wars have been known to do this; but experience proves that prolonged wars have always had the effect of throwing people off their balance and reducing them to their elemental conditions, which means little or no regard for anything except self-interest—until the balance is recovered.

Where, then, are we to look for a remedy, and find sound reasons for hope? If my reasoning is just, we must realise that our character foundations are at fault, which means that there is something radically wrong in our upbringing, and the education of our children up to the age of fourteen. The whole of that period is admittedly woman's sphere, and everything which enhances the value of a mother's influence and exalts her position will tend to the better rearing of the children. The war has undoubtedly enlarged the sphere of women and brought into prominence the necessity and value of their work in a state which makes any claim to be well ordered. There is every reason to hope that after the war women will be accorded what they have long deserved—a full measure of equality with man in every sphere of social and political life—and that cannot fail to have far-reaching effects upon our homes. Few of us realise, or are willing to admit, how much the discipline of children is secured or destroyed by the attitude which a man adopts towards his wife. If a husband treats his wife with the consideration due to an equal, the children are the first to recognise it, and the wife instinctively takes pride in the responsibility which is consciously assigned to her.

In the evolution of women, then, I find much hope for improvement in the first stage of existence. The second stage of what is defined more particularly as education, is shared between the mother and the schoolmaster, and we may be excused for supposing that, at this stage, the foundations of life are more consciously prepared than before. I will not dispute that supposition, but assuming it to be true, we have to see to it that these foundations are "well and truly laid" if the next generation is to better maintain its moral sense in all changes of condition. I find in the present experience convincing proof that the moral sense of our people has not been well founded upon an eternal basis. It seems rather to have been founded upon the teaching that honesty is the best policy, and that getting ahead of your neighbour in work or play is the highest goal of ambition. That kind of teaching does not make for long lasting, because nothing really lives except what is spiritual, or ideal, as distinguished from what is material.

Let us ask ourselves how much the happiness of our families depends upon the sense of oneness in its members, and the sense of co-operation with the moral government of the world. Our answer will give us the measure of what we have to do if we intend to make the next generation more stable than the last. Education must become much more self-development than training by direction, and based upon co-operation, in study in manual labour, and in play. If we are to create a true community-sense in our citizens, we must begin in the family and continue it in the school, and the more we rely upon co-education of the two sexes the better. A community of boys or a community of girls is an antithesis to family life, and ought to find no parallel in the larger life of the State.

With these ideals in view, and a confident assurance that women will soon be admitted to full partnership in the realisation and development of human progress, let us rejoice in understanding what is bad in our present condition, because without that knowledge we could steer only a crooked course; but with it we may go straight for the goal, knowing that above us are ever shining the stars of faith and duty.

Cecil Chapman.

MAN TO MAN.

An open letter to a One-time Anti-Suffragist.

The Vote Not a Good-Conduct Mark.

Dear Sir,—It is not unnatural to hope that you are one o those who have been reversing or modifying your opinions on the subject of Women's Suffrage; not so much in the direction of offering the vote to the women as a good conduct mark for patriotic services in war-time (as is claimed for those soldiers who happen not to be on the Register), but rather of extending the vote to them because the war has been the means of showing in a clear light their qualities, hitherto obscured to many, in the full category of mind, body, and spirit.

Is Her place only in the Home?

This discovery, Sir, has stirred the most unlikely people to a comprehension that the upholders of the Anti-Suffrage position cannot, in their two stock arguments, have it both ways. They cannot witness women's pluck, pertinacity and adaptability; they cannot join in the pæans of praise over their output of munitions; they cannot applaud the women who are earning, at the front, the same decorations as the men, and still (or when the danger from Germany is, perhaps, past) shake the finger and say, with one eye on the birth-rate, that the only place for women is the home.

Does the Physical-Force Argument hold good?

Then, as to the physical-force argument, it breaks down both ways. First, as a nation of men and women we profess to be struggling to teach Germany that physical force is not to rule the world; we even hope to relieve that misguided nation of the military domination under which it suffers from its own rulers; and, on the other hand, we have it proclaimed to us from the housetops by our own temporary war lords, Mr. Lloyd George, Sir William Robertson, Mr. Montague and Lord Derby, that the women are, in the plain meaning of the expression, an integral part of our fighting force, without which we cannot hope to overcome the enemy or keep our homes secure. Is there to be after this the old grudging spirit of political dog-in-the-manger-ism towards the women. (See foot-note.)

The Women at last Welcomed into Industry.

Are we, moreover, to disregard the economic position of the millions of old—to say nothing of the hundreds of thousands of new women-workers, many of whom the war will have made permanently necessary to our factories? Are they to fight for a livelihood without the protection of the vote that men find a needful adjunct to collective bargaining? To deny them this would be to expose them to the exploitation of their employers, governmental and private alike, thereby bringing their wages down to starvation level and dragging, of necessity, the men's wages and the whole standard of national life down with them.

What we have Lost Already.

Women Doctors.—As the war has dragged on from year to year and piled up frightfulness on frightfulness, men have surely learned what they have lost by their exclusion of women doctors from our great hospitals. They have thus increased the terrible death-roll on the field of battle, and caused incalculable suffering abroad and at home.

Waste and Mismanagement.—We have seen wanton waste, merging into cankering corruption, in the feeding and clothing of our armies, due to the refusal of women's hel in the national housekeeping. We have seen—and who will deny it?—a misunderstanding and mismanagement of all that concerns a million homes; of the food question, of the pensions question, of the doles given with such dilatoriness to wounded soldiers and their starving dependents.

Shortage of Nurses.—It is only recently that we set up a Committee to overcome the shortage of nurses, a shortage greatly due to our own neglect of their pay and position in the past. This Committee was formed, in the first instance, with hardly a woman on it, still less a trained nurse, and at the head of it we put a man who had been the determined opponent of the just and commonsense measure for the registration of qualified nurses.

The Influence on Moral Questions.

Venereal Disease.—If the women had had political power, is it to be supposed that a Commission on Venereal Disease, which has been sapping the life of the nation, would have been so tardily appointed that before its conclusion we find ourselves in the midst of another war tending to intensify the evil beyond all nightmares? We find ourselves in haste compelled to tackle the medical side only of the plague and let the moral go hang.

Law Courts.—If women's influence were duly brought to bear on the making and administering of our laws, would it be possible to read, as I do to-day, while I am writing this t you (and similar judgments are frequent) of an Army Sergeant committing a vile offence against a six-year-old child, thereby infecting it with an unnameable disease, and of his being given by the magistrate for the crime which the Bench stigmatised as "outrageous, monstrous, and exceptionally bad"—what do you suppose? Five years' penal servitude? Ten years? No! On several flimsy pretexts he gets *six months*, and in the *second* division!

Entertainments.—Is the mind of the general public likely to view such things in their proper light while we have such blatant and ubiquitous licence in our public entertainments? We certainly have our worthy Smith-Dorriens denouncing it to the deaf ears of a preoccupied country, but, as in other directions, we are late—late, my good Sir, in not having given women a generation ago, when the agricultural labourer had already received it, the dignity and leverage of political power. Had we done so, the decent and intelligent among them might have saved the revue girls from being hired to produce what is indecent and unintelligent. We should not be offering such productions to audiences of highly strung fighting men and the friends they are leaving behind—and this at a time when the foe to be subdued is held up to our detestation as lost to all sense of decency, but of an intelligence in many directions which none can dispute.

The Example of the Daughter States.

In conclusion, Sir, I would remind you that throughout Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, and in four States of Canada, they also vote who only wait or work at home; thei women, therefore, share with the men the settlement of Imperial questions; and I beg that you will do nothing to dash the expectations that have been so increasingly held out to our women here; that you will no longer stand aside from those who would give, as these splendid fellow-countrymen of ours overseas have given, political power to our mothers, sisters, wives and daughters, that they may help us to make the outbreak of peace bearable; that they may devise with us some means of saving the world from another such war, if that may be, or that they may be better equipped to help us to defend ourselves in some more appalling catastrophe if we are to be cursed with it.

Yours,

Common Sense.

P.S.—If these things are now obvious to you, please pass the letter to some unconvinced neighbour.

Note.—There has in the past been some confusion between the brawn of the nation that does the actual fighting, and the brain of the nation that directs or controls, however indirectly, its military policy (and, one might add, the spirit that acquiesces in, supports, or rebels against, any existing policy). No one, however, has seriously proposed to deny the vote to those of us who either cannot, or are not allowed, to man the trench, the battleship, or the aeroplane.

Women and Legal Reform.

BY HIS HONOUR JUDGE PARRY.

Although we live in an age that is thirsting to scrap first principles and cast aside our constitutional rights and liberties, that the destinies of the country may be handed over to some heaven-sent political "strong man" discovered by the search-lights on the mountain of Carmel, there are still some old-fashioned early Victorian people like myself who cling to the out-of-date belief that good government is very much a matter of wise laws and the pure administration thereof.

For those who think the magician's wand in the hand of a dictator is likely to produce a happier England, I have no message. I have no quarrel with faith-healers and pill proprietors, but I certainly do not expect their activities and remedies to react favourably on the hygienic statistics of to-day, or the health and virility of the coming race of to-morrow.

Legal reform will never be popular with the masses for many obvious reasons. It is a stodgy subject to begin with; it needs a lot of dull and wearisome study, and even when the reform is made, those who have brought it about are never privileged to see with their own eyes the vineyards of the promised lands that it has opened to the public.

Women, who are every day taking a larger part in the social and political work of the world, might, it appears to me, take a deeper interest in the history of the past laws of their country, noting the ways by which real reforms have come about in order that they may in their own generation do something on the same lines for the vital matters that need reform to-day.

It is not a popular thing to ask anyone to take an interest in legal reform. As a lad I used to shudder at the idea of sitting through a lecture on the glacial period by a bald-headed old man with long white whiskers, whilst I always enjoyed the first chapter of Genesis as a sporting chronicle of a crowded week of glorious events. Age and experience have brought me to hope more from geology than creation; or, to put it perhaps more sanely and piously, that geology is the only true form of creation.

It seems a fact in nature that the wheels of the world we live in grind very slowly, and that our duty and interest lie in discovering how and why they work in certain directions and what they are trying to do. At least we may refrain from putting grit in their bearings for the childish pleasure of hearing them squeak. Looked at as a side-show in the vanity fair of human progress, even legal reform has its attractions.

But I shall be asked by women, how can we take any part in legal reform since we are shut out both from the making and administration of the law? To which the only reply that I can make is that this has been the fate, and still is the fate, of many nations, peoples, sects, and communities; and can be, and has been, overcome by long generations of argument, reason, example, and persistence.

The largest body of feminine energy not unnaturally attacks the Suffrage question. I agree the demand is just, and will probably be conceded before long, and I believe in the end the granting of it will be beneficial, but I do not expect great reforms from a large addition to the Voters' Register. On the contrary, I expect at first, when the battle is won, there will be a distinct tendency towards the voting against reforms rather than in their favour because the new voters will not understand what they are all about. A new and beautiful world is not going to be created by a new and beautiful electorate.

I cannot but think that whilst John Stuart Mill in the study and Miss Lydia Becker on the platform were doing good work for the cause of woman, Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell and Dr. Garrett Anderson were doing even greater work in forcing the closely-guarded outposts of the medical profession, and opening the schools and colleges of medical education to women students, and demanding degrees and diplomas for women graduates. Nothing has done more to convert the heathen, ignorant man in the street to the capabilities of women workers than the deeds of heroism and practical utility that have been enacted by women doctors during the war.

Here we see a great reform brought about to a large extent by the personal efforts of a great enthusiast like Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell rather than by any big public organisation. If, then, women desire to push forward reforms in which they are interested, I can conceive no better way of bringing that about than by their demanding the same status for themselves in law that they have already attained in medicine. The study of the law is, of course, open to women to-day, and so, in a sense, was the study of medicine a hundred years ago. But the mere study of a profession without the right to practise it, is as useless and unprofitable as matrimony without children. I say, then, that the first step towards the reform of laws relating to women should be the creation of women lawyers. I think if this demand were pressed, the opposition could not be very strong. It is obviously just and reasonable that where law interferes in so many ways with the personal life of a woman, she should, if she desires it, have a woman lawyer to consult.

This, however, is only the personal side of the matter. In the interests of legal reform, women lawyers are the great essential. I have often wondered why the Labour Party has never elected an Attorney-General for its service. Certain it is that many laws concerning working men's rights would have been drafted and passed in a form more suitable to the interests of workers if there had been a working-man lawyer at hand who knew the real wants and desires of his party, and could see that they were as powerfully expressed in the actual Bill as in the bland eloquence of the right honourable Minister who introduced it with such plausible sympathy. How often do we find before a hard-hearted magistrate that Ministerial promises have never been extended into statutory words in the Act of Parliament, but have drifted into nothingness through the ventilators of the House of Commons.

Here it is that the lawyer comes in. Whilst Ministers are speechifying, and leader-writers are coruscating, he is grubbing through the Bill with his finger on each line of it, trying to assure himself that the promises are made fast and binding. There is going to be no sort of legal reform before the Millennium without lawyers, and any group of human beings who want certain reforms made in certain ways have need of their own lawyers who are men or women with practical and personal knowledge of the ways and wishes of their clients.

For women to obtain the full value of the reforms they are advocating, I am convinced that they must have women lawyers, and from a woman's point of view that is the demand that, as a practical and urgent proposition, I should put in the forefront of a woman's programme of legal reform.

It should, of course, be made part of a larger demand for freedom for women to work without legal let or hindrance in every trade or profession on an equality with man, but as a matter of business I should press it home in the form of a Bill to throw open to women the existing profession of a solicitor, as that would be advancing along the line of least resistance, and into a country where the enemy is comparatively weak and there are powerful and friendly natives.

For although there are great forces entrenched against the reform of the divorce laws, for instance, and the laws for the better protection of women, and the rights of mothers to the custody and control of their children, and many similar affairs that touch the lives of women, we need not despair of seeing some of these matters remedied in our own day. But to my thinking they will not be thoroughly dealt with until we have the aid of trained women lawyers to take part in the practical business of amending legislation.

I am a business man, and I am sure that the business of legal reform will be best done by overwhelming the nearest and weakest trench before making a general advance. Now the solicitors, to my mind, have been lying low in a quite illogical and untenable trench ever since the women came over the top and drove out the doctors who so heroically fought in the first line of defence more than fifty years ago. I do not expect much of a fight will be put up by the enemy, and I hope and believe that when the women attack in earnest, the attorneys—who are a gallant and susceptible set of fellows—will crawl out of Chancery Lane and hold up their hands and cry "Kamerades!"

The insight and knowledge that women will gain in the study and practice of the law will tend to bring about sane moderate business legal reform acceptable to the community at large, and for my own part I hope I may live long enough to be able to welcome Portia in the County Court and following the Venetian's precedent, say, with the Duke:—"You are welcome: take your place."

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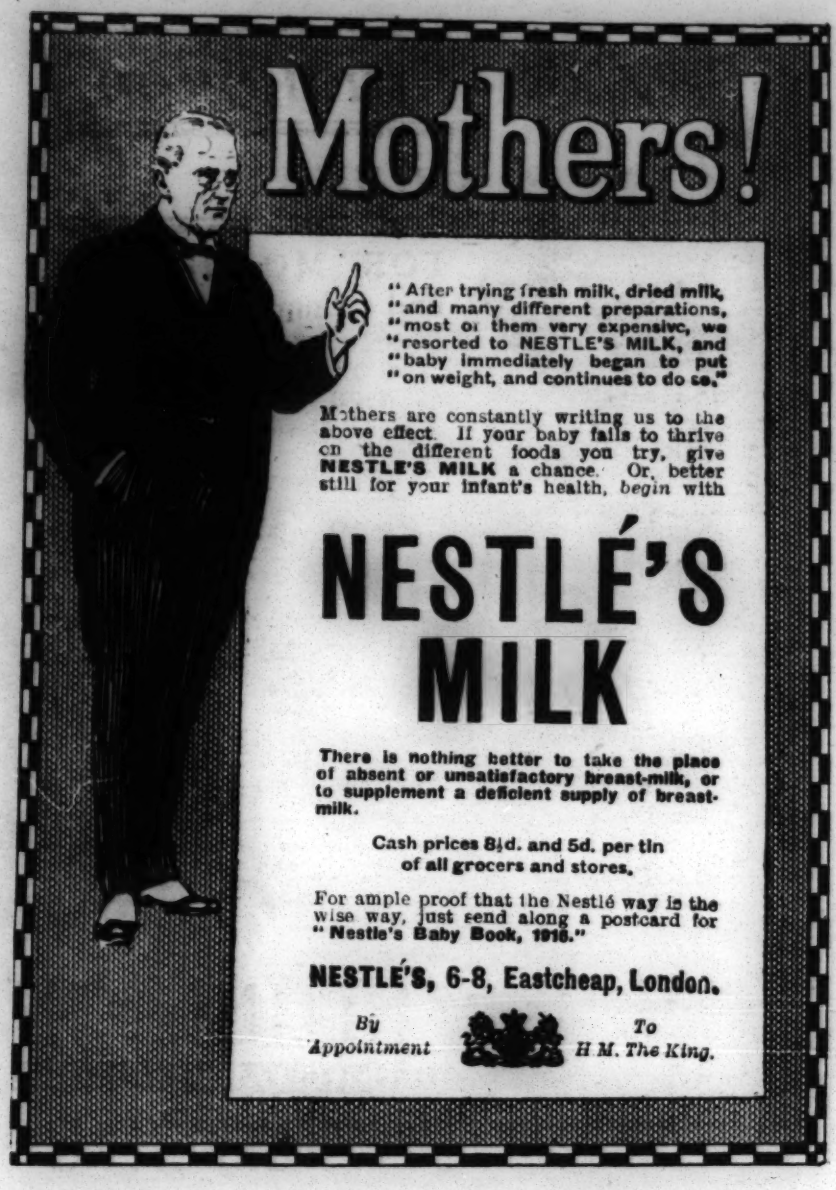
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T. 109.

The Nationality of Married Women.

One aspect of the legal subjection of women which, as a direct result of the war, has been receiving special attention from the organised women of many countries is the rule now almost universally in force that a married woman shall be deemed to be of the same nationality as her husband. Whereas the rights of a man with respect to his retaining, or altering, his nationality are not, except in a few exceptional cases, affected by the nationality of his wife, a woman by her marriage ceases to have any right to determine to which state she shall give her allegiance, again with a few exceptions. As it is put in our most recent statute, the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act, 1914, which received the Royal Assent three days after the declaration of war, "the wife of a British subject shall be deemed to be a British subject, and the wife of an alien shall be deemed to be an alien." The Act goes on to put a married woman under a disability with respect to the enjoyment of its privileges by explicitly giving her the status of "a minor, lunatic, or idiot."

Already in this country as a result of the war some people are agitating for the amendment of this Act, but not with any intention of removing the present disabilities of married women. The fact, however, that the subject is being discussed not only here but in other countries indicates the necessity of being ready with a programme. The terrible hardships suffered by women who have been turned by the laws of their respective countries into the "enemies" of their own people has brought the subject before the women's organisations. It is being recognised that the amendment of these laws is one of the reforms which will have to be fought for by the women in every country. It is no doubt desirable that the laws on this question should be the same in the different countries, and this argument of uniformity is used to uphold the present system. But just as we are passing gradually from the almost uniform practice of treating the wife's goods as the property of her husband to the more equitable practice of considering them her own, so in time we shall pass from this uniform injustice to the married woman, where her nationality is concerned, to the uniform recognition of her as a personality in herself with an equal right with her husband to choose the country of her allegiance.

The interest in the subject by the women's organisations is widespread and spontaneous. Within the last six months, resolutions have been passed by the French National Union for Woman Suffrage which urged that foreign women marrying Frenchmen should have the right to keep their nationality; by the Swedish National Association for Woman Suffrage, which asked that a woman who marries an alien shall retain her nationality as long as she resides in the country of her birth; by the Swiss National Woman Suffrage Association, which urged that a married woman should have the right to be naturalised on her own account and recommended the study of the question to the International Suffrage Alliance; by the Dutch National Council of Women, which protested against the laws of nationality as they affect married women, and urged the National Councils in the International Council of Women to investigate the question; and by the British Dominions Women's Suffrage Union, which urged that married women should not be deprived of their nationality against their will and recommended the women of Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa to seek to amend the Nationality Bills which the Governments of these Dominions have agreed to introduce into their respective Parliaments. The subject is also being touched upon in the feminist press. We find a writer in the *Frauenbewegung* speaking of the tragedy of the German-born wives of the British interned in Ruhleben. Many, she says, have never been out of Germany, and had never dreamed that they had ceased to be Germans. We know that the suffering of our own British-born wives has been no less. They have had to register as enemies of their country. They are not allowed to go more than five miles from their homes. With their husbands interned, they have had a hard struggle to keep their children on the pittance that is granted them, and because they are "enemies" it is extremely difficult for them to find work. Some have been compelled, by the impossibility of living on their allowance, to go with their children to Germany or Austria for the first time in their lives. The Women's Press of the United States also has been calling attention to cases of hardship. One woman has been denied the right to act as her mother's executrix because she has married a Dane; another has been denied a pension for the blind because her husband is a foreigner; and the Courts have decided that a Californian woman has lost her right to vote because her husband is a British subject.

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It is well to remember that this practice of refusing to recognise a British woman as British after her marriage with an alien is a modern innovation, dating only from the year 1870, so that, whereas women's position has been improving in other respects in these fifty years, in this it has gone back. Though it is not a survival of the law of coverture, it is based on the old idea that a woman is not to be considered as an independent personality, but as subordinate to her husband. The position in the British Empire is that each Dominion has the power to make its own laws regarding nationality. The British Nationality and Status of Aliens Bill, which was introduced into the Imperial Parliament in 1914, was in a form which had already been approved by the Governments of the United Kingdom and of the Dominions. It was to have been introduced into all the Parliaments with a view to establishing a uniform system of Nationality laws throughout the Empire. The framers of the measure apparently thought there would be no opposition. It seemed to them to meet all important difficulties. But they had reckoned without the women. As the results of protests from women's organisations two modifications were introduced. One was to facilitate the return to British nationality of a woman whose marriage had been dissolved. The other provided that the wife of a British subject shall have the right to retain her British nationality should her husband change his, a very important provision since it recognises the principle that a woman may be of a different nationality from her husband. Up to the present the only Dominions which have adopted the provisions of the Act are Canada and Newfoundland. Australia, New Zealand and South Africa have still to discuss the measure. It is, therefore, to be hoped that the women of these countries, especially the enfranchised women of the two former, will do what they can to have the Bill so amended that it gives the wife the same right to choose her nationality as her husband. No doubt both parties would as a rule prefer to belong to the same nationality, but that is no reason for denying the choice to the wife. The rule by which children born on British soil are British subjects, means that there is nothing out of the ordinary under our present law in having different members of a family of different nationalities. The children of foreign men born in this country are, by the laws of this country, considered British although their British-born mother is treated as a foreigner.

CHRYSTAL MACMILLAN.

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We want to appeal to all women at home to spare something to help the women workers.

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Lady Rochdale	1	0	0
Miss C. Reid		5	0
"E. C. B."	50	0	0
Miss D. Allen-Brown		10	6
Miss E. de B. Griffith		5	0
"M. F."		5	6
Capt. A. E. Lightbody	1	0	0
"M. F. P."	1	0	0
Miss Mary Stephen		10	0
Mrs. A. J. Waldegrave		2	6
Miss M. E. Brailsford	1	0	0
Miss D. Browne	1	0	0
Miss G. M. Garnett		2	6
Miss Margaret C. Crosfield ...	5	0	0
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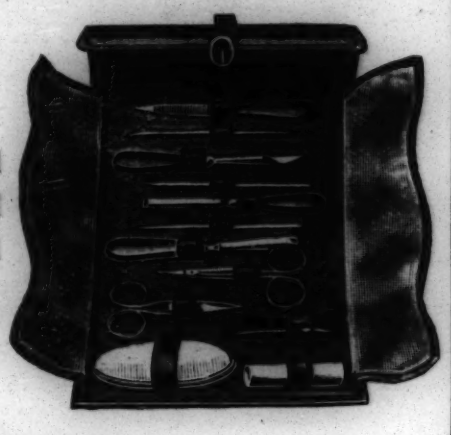

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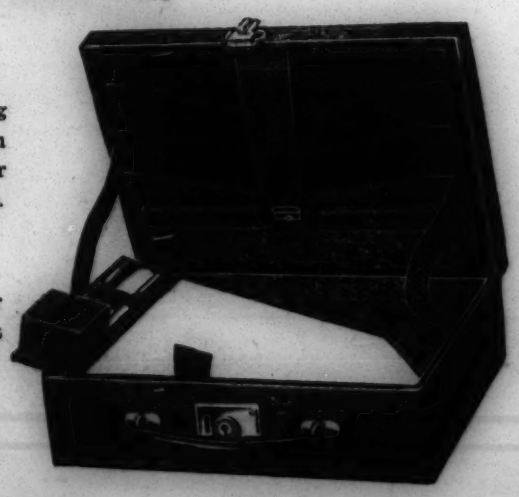

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How Women Can Use the Municipal Vote.

As Municipal Voters women can do very good service in seeing that there is neither wastage in local public expenditure, on the one hand, nor false economy on the other. The Municipal Council is the Public Health Authority for its area. It controls the water supply, drainage and sewerage, lighting, street improvements, provision of public lavatories, inspection of food, factories, domestic workshops, and general sanitary inspection, and collection of refuse. It also has large powers with regard to housing, licencing of common lodging-houses, suppression of disorderly houses, and general maintenance of public order, and is responsible for carrying out the Notification of Births Act, and appointing health visitors. Another duty that has just been laid upon it is that of making provision for treatment of venereal disease, of which a great increase is feared owing to war conditions. These things are of the very greatest importance to the home.

In some places, Women's Citizens' Associations have been formed, and have obtained considerable influence in local affairs. But if even a few women voters band themselves together to obtain a certain object, and state their case in a convincing way, there is a good chance that, as voters, they may have some influence.

The following are some of the questions which women would do well to watch over :—

1. Are the streets properly cleansed and is refuse collected regularly? This is very necessary from the point of view of the children's health. Less than ever now can we afford to lose our babies. If the Borough Council makes the excuse that they cannot get labour, let them be told how well women are acting as scavengers in some of our large towns.

2. Are the mothers of the poorest classes properly looked after in child birth, and health visitors sent to advise them on the care of their babies and themselves? *More children die each year under one year of age than the number of men we lost in the first year of the war.* In many places schools for mothers and baby clinics have been started by the municipality with good results. In others the municipality has subsidised enterprises started by voluntary effort.

Where there are good sanitary and housing conditions, and the mothers are properly looked after, comparatively few babies die.

3. Is the number of sanitary inspectors being maintained? Some Councils have refused in the past to appoint women for this work, but it is most important that they should do so now. The health of the children must not suffer because men inspectors have been called up for military service.

4. Are munition workers and others doing work vital to the nation being adequately housed? This is not the time for housing schemes involving large expenditure and much labour; but where there is a shortage of accommodation for munition workers in any districts the municipality might take over any houses that are standing empty and utilise them as lodging houses.

5. Is the Council making plans for providing treatment for venereal disease? This is a most important question for women who want to protect their homes. If they do not realise how great this danger is they should read the Shortened Report of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases (National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases, Kingsway House, W.C. 1s.).

6. Is there disorderly conduct in the streets or public places? Women police and women patrols have done a great deal in some places in maintaining public decency and specially in dealing with foolish young girls who hang about outside camps and barracks. They are also doing a great deal for the protection of children. Comparatively few Councils have yet appointed women police, and it rests with the women of a town to see that this is done.

7. Are disorderly houses tolerated? Municipal Councils are usually very slow to move in suppressing such places unless pressure is brought to bear upon them. It is specially necessary that this question should be looked after in places where there are a number of soldiers.

8. Are there any women on the Municipal Council? If not, the Council should be urged to co-opt one whenever a vacancy occurs.

Unfortunately, there is still a great deal of prejudice against women candidates, although so much of the work of Municipal Councils comes within women's special sphere. Municipal Elections are usually run by the same machinery as political contests, and the different party organisations do not care to adopt a woman as candidate. If women were Parliamentary electors, the party organisations would hold them of greater importance, and they would stand a better chance of being nominated.

For "The Common Cause."

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Already acknowledged ...	...544 11 10	Miss B. A. Clough ...	... 5 0 0
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Women's Suffrage.

Madam,—Miss Mary Cholmondeley's name was included in error among the signatories to the letter published in your issue of the 1st December, in reply to the Anti-Suffrage manifesto.—Yours, &c.,

Olive A. Jetley,
Press Secretary, N.U.W.S.S.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: MRS HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
MISS EVELYN ATKINSON.
MRS. OLIVER STRACHEY (Parliamentary)

Hon. Treasurer:
MRS. AUERBACH.
Secretary:
MISS HELEN WRIGHT.

Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone—4673 Vic.

The work of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies since the declaration of war cut across all ordinary activities has fallen broadly into two lines.

At first the need of help at home called forth all the energies of Headquarters and the Branches. In the organisation of relief work the trained workers of the National Union found great scope, and were drafted off by degrees into important posts, many directly connected with war work. Workrooms for unemployed women, chiefly dressmakers and assistants in similar trades, were established in London and in some of the larger towns. In connection with the Women's Co-operative Guild, Maternity and Infant Welfare work was carried out in all parts of the country, and arising out of this work, magnificent gifts of children's garments have been sent from New Zealand Women's Societies. Through this arrangement, the N.U.W.S.S. has continued in friendly touch with the New Zealand women, and the appreciation and gratitude amongst the recipients of the gifts in this country have helped to draw closer the ties which bind the women of the Empire.

National Economy lectures and exhibitions were a part of the Union's work before the organisations which now deal with the question had begun an extensive campaign, and a small but very complete Economy exhibition was held in the Parliament Street Shop.

A fund was raised to assist professional women whose work had been lost or curtailed by the war, and the fund carried out an excellent work until the question of unemployment became less acute.

With the changing conditions of employment, and the new openings for women caused by the war, there arose the necessity for very careful scrutiny on behalf of women's interests in general. A Sub-Committee for the safeguarding of women's interests in time of war was formed at Headquarters, and has done valuable work in investigating and ventilating various grievances connected with the employment of women and children. An influentially signed Memorial, urging the opening of the Higher Grades of the Civil Service to women, and action taken in connection with the employment of women as taxi-cab drivers, both initiated by the Committee, indicate the wide scope of the enquiries.

These various activities have effectively put into practice the resolution that the Union should devote its energies to sustaining the vital forces of the nation, which are so inextricably bound up in the welfare of the women and children.

The other broad line upon which the Union embarked in the autumn of 1914 was the organisation of Hospitals for Foreign Service with the Allies. There is no need to recall in detail the story of the Scottish Women's Hospitals in France, Serbia, Corsica, and Roumania, or of the Millicent Fawcett Units in Russia. From week to week the chronicle continues in THE COMMON CAUSE, sometimes of great events like the retreat from Serbia, sometimes of new hospitals opened up, or touching stories of the little refugee children in Russia. Wherever our Units have gone, the bonds of friendship with our Allies have been strengthened, and the belief in British women's daring, skill, and organising power has grown. The international value of the N.U.W.S.S. foreign units has already been abundantly proved, and they will be remembered long after the horrors of war have passed.

The two broad roads down which the Union has gone since August 1914, are still thronged with workers, who will tread them to the end, but gradually the Union has had to resume its older activities. The events in the political world are too fresh in the minds of everyone to recapitulate here; how the Franchise question was raised, not by Suffragists, but through the logic of events, and the National Union called once more upon its supporters. With all the burden of other work and great anxieties already on their shoulders, members and friends of the Union have responded to the call, and the great object for which it has worked will find achievement through their devotion and sacrifice.

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Telegrams: "CHIEFTAINS," GLASGOW

Our Millicent Fawcett Units.

Just a year ago, Miss Moberly and Miss Thurstan left England for Russia, empowered by the N.U.W.S.S. to investigate general conditions with a special view to the work among refugees about to be undertaken by the Society. Since then much has happened, and our five Hospital Units form a chain of medical help stretching from Petrograd to Kazan, and from Kazan to Galicia. Under war conditions proportionate to the size, the characteristics, and the enormous responsibilities of Russia, administrative work has been extraordinarily difficult. Even with the hearty co-operation of notable organisations, such as the Zemstvos, the Tatiana Committee, and the Great Britain to Poland Fund, with the sympathy and gratitude of all individuals with whom they have come in contact, difficulties, delays, and disappointments have beset the path of our Administrators. A fine courage in the face of grinding and monotonous discomforts has been shown by members of the Units, and they have borne with patience and cheerfulness occasional very real hardships.

British women are little known in Russia, and intense interest in those working for the N.U.W.S.S. is shown by everyone who meets them. I was very much struck, in travelling about the country, by the natural unaffected curiosity shown in us by our fellow-travellers during the long journeys, frequently at night. The trains are overcrowded with people and baggage, as Russians carry with them food and bedding, and fill every available space with boxes and bundles of all kinds. Conversation, as a rule, waxes fast and furious, and no subject is too trivial or too important. Thoughts and feelings are discussed without any kind of self-consciousness. The cultivated Russians make of their conversation a very fine thing. As part of their wonderful hospitality they are immensely patient with the unhappy foreigner struggling with the difficulties of an unfamiliar language. It is not at all unusual for a Russian to speak English and Italian and German well, while practically every Russian of any education is familiar with French.

Many of the Russian peasants cannot read or write, but, on the other hand, there are many who can. It is interesting to see displayed outside the shops in Petrograd, sign-boards, upon which are painted the articles that may be bought within, while on every other box a sealed otter is painted, so that those

who cannot read may yet understand! The towns are very full just now: Russia has been obliged to stow away somewhere something like seven million refugees from the War Zone. Stations are thronged with people: troop trains packed with soldiers are constantly on the way. Fine men they are in most cases and well-drilled. Red Cross hospitals abound, though even then there is not accommodation for the vast numbers of wounded men who must be dealt with.

As in England, the women of the upper classes are devoting themselves to nursing, but Russia suffers greatly from her lack of middle-class trained women. Skilled organisation in any undertaking is very rare, and all work suffers accordingly. Transport and internal communication of all kinds are extremely unreliable, and trains are frequently many hours late on short runs. Letters and telegrams become things of chance, while reliable information on any subject is very difficult to obtain.

England and everything English arouses intense interest, and all over Russia societies are being formed for the study of our country, our people and their customs, and of our Constitution. English literature is familiar to many Russians, and the position of women, especially in war-time, arouses much speculation. Very little is known of the Constitutional Suffrage movement, but undoubtedly the spirit behind it is no new thing

to the progressive Russians, who are striving with all their strength after a newer and a finer Russia. German trade influence has been enormous in Russia, and in some cases shopkeepers would mistake us for Germans and try to talk to us in German, with bated breath, withal! We were always careful to explain our origin, and always enjoyed the small sensation caused by the information. It is difficult here in England to realise the prominence of the few English women in Russia. Each one represents to the Russian people English women as a whole, and the thought and care which have been expended on the selection of our workers have proved to be more than worth while. One of the principles underlying the work of the N.U.W.S.S. in Russia has always been to give only of our best. We have always realised the representative nature of the work, and all praise is due to our Administrators for having used that to the greatest advantage.

It is no mean feat to have raised for civilian work abroad over £9,000, but this has been done by the Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units Committee, and they now appeal confidently for another £2,000 in order to carry through the winter's work so urgently needed. Donations should be sent to the Countess of Selborne, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith-street, London, S.W.

B. E.

"THE COMMON CAUSE" SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COMMERCIAL CHEMISTRY.

"Whatever the nature of the research work may be," said the writer of an article in *The Times* on our national need of chemical knowledge in commerce, "*the nation ought to have the best brains of the country applied to its service.*"

Only a small fraction of the Government's grants is available for chemistry, and of this fraction scarcely any is for scholarships open to women. Thanks to our readers' generosity and farsightedness, we have been enabled to raise a fund to enable two women students to undertake a year of post-graduate research, with a view to devoting their energies to Commercial Chemistry.

Economy is urged upon us all, but the better half of economy is increased production, and the aim of the founders of the fund is to enable women to take up an important piece of national service.

Two scholarships are offered of the value of £75 each, to be held, preferably, at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington, or the School of Technology, Manchester. Applicants are requested to send in their names to the Scholarship Secretary, The Common Cause, 14 Great Smith Street, S.W.

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Eciruam's Gowns are very practical and comfortable with many opportunties for variation in style and material. They can be used for both day and evening wear. They especially fulfil the needs of busy women who are too tired to make an elaborate toilette in the evening, and yet who wish to look fresh and attractive. *Only one fastening! Think of the comfort of it!* For travelling such a dress would be invaluable in some soft nice crushable material and would take up next to no room, a valuable quality in these days of restricted luggage.

Small coatees are made by the same firm, and these make a very smart addition to an evening or afternoon gown.

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A practical gift is the ever useful hosiery in the well-known "University" cashmere, for which Thompsons', of Tottenham Court-road, are famous, all sizes, 2/6 a pair as well as the real "Balbriggan" cashmere at 2/11½ and 3/6. Pure wool combinations, specially made for hard wear, at 8/11 a pair, and a strong less expensive garment made of wool and cotton at 6/11. Always handy raincoats can be supplied at 35/9, and a good ward and house shoe for 6/11 and 9/6 per pair.

Gloves, too, must not be forgotten, and a gift of a pair lined wool or fur costing from 5/11 to 11/6 will always be appreciated.

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Anyone visiting the spotless factory of The Wallace P.R. Foods Co. at Tottenham-lane, Hornsey, will gain a lasting impression of the unique efforts there made to produce foods of actual purity and embodying up-to-date principles as regards food-value, natural flavours, and entire absence of the many customary adulterants and "short cuts to attractiveness." A postcard to the above mentioned address will bring full particulars of a splendid list of absolutely pure Christmas Good Things. A noteworthy feature consists of special parcels for sending to friends and soldiers.

Coming Events.

The Women's Exhibition, Caxton Hall, Westminster (arranged by the Workers' Suffrage Federation), December 7th, 8th and 9th, open each day from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sweated Industries, Infant Welfare, Food Prices, Montessori Method demonstrated, Model Election, men and women voters, men and women candidates, Photographic Exhibition and Competition; Concert: Miss Marie Levinskaja, the Russian pianist; artiste from Margaret Morris School of Dance, and others. Tickets, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 1s.; 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., 6d.

British Women's Patriotic League Lecture, Wednesday, December 13th, at 3 p.m., Notting Hill High School, Holland Park-avenue, "The Sugar Industry in the West Indies," with lantern illustrations, by Mr. Edward R. Davson. Chair, Lady Emmott. Tickets, 2s., to be had at the door, or from the B.W.P.L., 92, Victoria-street, S.W.

The Star and Garter Committee (British Women's Hospital) are inaugurating their adoption of the cause of the London Units of the Scottish Women's Hospital (N.U.W.S.S.) by a meeting at the Palace Theatre (see advertisement in this paper for particulars). The London Units Committee cannot be sufficiently grateful to the Star and Garter Committee for its magnificent offer of raising £50,000. There is no doubt that the meeting, at which so many distinguished speakers will be present, will be a great success, and it is hoped that all those who have hitherto been supporters of the Scottish Women's Hospitals will make an effort to be present to show their appreciation of the splendid generosity of the British Women's Hospital organisation.

International Women's Franchise Club, 9, Grafton-street, Piccadilly, W. December 13th, 8 p.m., "The Military Future of Europe," by Mr. H. C. O'Neill (Military Expert). Chairman, The Lady Emmott.

The New Constitutional Society for Women Suffrage.—Public Meeting in the N.C.S. Hall, Park Mansions Arcade, Knightsbridge, S.W., on Tuesday, December 12th, at 3 p.m.—"Pro-Ally America," by the Rev. Frank I. Paradise, of Boston, U.S.A. Admission free.

The Housewife of To-Day.

HELPS AND HANDICAPS.

THERE can be little doubt that if the housewife of a century or two ago could pay a fleeting visit to the average twentieth century household she would, to put it mildly, be decidedly astonished. She might even consider the twentieth century housewife no proper housewife at all, seeing that this unworthy descendant knows not the solemn processes of the still-room and goes to the Stores for the many decoctions and concoctions, preserves and pickles, over which it was her great-grandmother's pride and delight to spend her daylight hours.

Is this a change for the better? One cannot help feeling that it is, though perhaps the old-fashioned among us might demur. The greater freedom that the lessened drudgery of housekeeping has bestowed upon the modern woman may not be everywhere considered an unmixed blessing; but one wonders how the belligerent countries would have been able to "carry on" while their men were fighting had not this gradual emancipation from the tyranny—but *not* from the dear and sacred duties—of the home been working itself out in the recent decades.

THE NEW DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

However that may be, domestic economy has taken on a fuller meaning to-day, and the stress is on the second half of the phrase. It is not only economy in money that the modern housewife seeks; economy of time, labour and energy—her servants' as well as her own—is also her aim. Hence the multitude of labour-saving devices which would bewilder a ghostly visitant from an earlier age. Had it not been for these, however, our present lot, hard as it is, would have been infinitely more difficult. Without casting any doubts upon the heroism of the many middle-class women who have had to face the problems of a reduced income from the earliest days of the war, it may be suggested that their fortitude in taking on their own shoulders the burdens formerly borne by one or more domestic servants was considerably upheld by the consciousness of the labour-saving devices at their command.

One knows of countless cases in which housewives have spent the equivalent of their savings on servants' wages and keep for one year on lightening the drudgery of the housework by these means; and hundreds of war brides have preferred to economise in human labour rather than on the appliances which make work easy. The obvious example which springs to one's mind is gas apparatus: the "scrapping" of the unreliable and dirty coal range in favour of the gas cooker and gas water-heater, supplemented possibly by gas fires in the living rooms, makes all the difference in a servantless house to the comfort and convenience of the woman who has to run it alone or with only occasional aid.

TAKE CARE OF THE PENCE . . .

The idea that gas is extravagant must have arisen because it has always been so cheap that nobody has troubled to exercise much care in its use. Servants are notorious offenders, and housewives who during the past two years have taken over the care of the kitchen themselves have been astonished to find the difference brought about in their gas bill simply because they have been careful in little things—to turn the gas out instead of pulling the pot aside, to keep it well under the pots instead of flaring up the sides, to use fire-proof china which requires little gas and multiple steamers which will cook the whole of a dinner over one gas ring, to keep the burners and all parts of the cooker clean, and to take other precautions of this nature which the average cook would never dream of. *She* does not have to pay the bill, anyway; therefore it never occurs to her, as it does to the economising housewife, to make full use of the oven when once she has heated it up by cooking as many things as possible at once, nor to use the simmering ring instead of a big boiling burner when once the contents of a saucepan have been brought to the boil. Little savings, perhaps, but they mount up.

Everybody ought to be educated up to the economical use of gas, for it bids fair to be the fuel of the future in every class of home. Women are going to be just as busy after the war as they are now, and it will not be considered a disgrace for the wife to work outside the home to bring more grist to the family mill. But she must none the more for that reason neglect her household duties; and therefore to every thing that tends to make those duties more easily accomplished she will offer a hearty welcome.

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Forthcoming Meetings.

DECEMBER 8.

Brighton—Men's Co-operative Guild—Speaker: Mrs. Robie Uniacke, on "Women Suffrage and the Political Situation."

DECEMBER 9.

Barnes—Mortlake and East Sheen W.S.S., at the Barnes and Mortlake Day Nursery, 117, High Street, Mortlake—An address on the political situation, by Mrs. Renton, followed by tea and entertainment, in aid of the London Unit of the Scottish Hospitals—Chair: Miss Attwell 3.0

Birmingham—Pitman Restaurant—Speaker: Mrs. Ring 3.0

Cheltenham—In Bayshill Lecture Room—Sale to follow, for Women's Hospital Units—Speaker: Mrs. Saul Solomon 3.0

DECEMBER 11.

Birmingham—Soho Co-operative Guild—Speaker: Mr. Palmer 6.15

Camberley—At Deloraine, Camberley—Hostess: Mrs. Hilson—Lecture by Miss Mildred Ransom, "Business Affairs and the Management of Money" 3.0

West Dulwich—Drawing-room Meeting, at 161, Croxted Place—Speaker: Mrs. C. Fisher—Subject: "The Present Position of Women Suffrage"—Chair: The Lady Frances Balfour 3.0

DECEMBER 12.

Brighton—Hove Women's Co-operative Guild—Mrs. Robie Uniacke, on Women Suffrage 8.0

Chester—At Haswell's Restaurant, Forgate Street—Mrs. Duckworth presiding—Miss M. H. Corolin will give an address on "The Report of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases."

Highgate—Working Party at 26, West Hill—Hostess: Mrs. Garnett. Instead of fourth Tuesday this month. Members and friends cordially invited.

DECEMBER 13.

Bristol—Working Party at 40, Park Street 2.45

Highgate—Study Circle at 3M, Holly Terrace, West Hill—Subject: "War and Democracy."

DECEMBER 14.

Brighton—Portslade Women's Co-operative Guild—Mrs. Robie Uniacke, on Women Suffrage. 3.0

DECEMBER 15.

Worthing—Meeting at 8, Liverpool Terrace—Speaker: Mrs. Renton—Subject: "The Present Political Situation" 4.30

DECEMBER 16.

Lancaster Gate—Sale of Lavender Bags and other useful articles, at 20, Craven Terrace (The Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves').

Scottish Women's Hospital Meetings

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11th, Highgate Road Adult School, Kentish Town. Speaker: Miss May Curwen. 7.30 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12th, at the Palace Theatre, at 3 p.m. (kindly lent by the Directors). Chair: Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson. Speakers: The Lady Frances Balfour, Bishop Browne, Miss Compton, Miss Lind-Af-Hageby, Miss Doris Keane, Father Nicholai Velimirovic, D.D., Mr. Pett Ridge, Mr. Ben Tillett. National Anthem sung by Madame Clara Butt. Tickets: Stalls, 3s.; Royal Circle, 2s.; First Circle, 1s. May be obtained from the Box Office, Palace Theatre, and the Secretary, British Women's Hospital, 21, Old Bond Street, W. Entrance to Amphitheatre free, on application to the Secretary, British Women's Hospital, only, enclosing stamped addressed envelope.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12th, Aldershot Institute. Speaker: Miss May Curwen. 3 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14th, Eastbourne Park Chapel Relief Corps. Speaker: Miss May Curwen. 8.15 p.m.

WOMEN'S MUNICIPAL PARTY.

December Meetings.

CHELSEA, December 12th.—Drawing-room Meeting; Mrs. Hubert Walter, 19, Cheyne Place. Speaker: Lady Barrett, M.D.M.S. Chair: Lady Sydenham.

KENSINGTON, December 14th.—Lady Frances Balfour; "At Home," 32, Addison Road, W.

ST. PANCRAS, December 12th.—Drawing-room Meeting; Mrs. J. H. Harley, 18, Maitland Park Villas, N.W. Speaker: Councillor Miss M. E. Balkwill. Chair: Mrs. T. H. W. Idris (ex-Councillor of St. Pancras). Annual Business Meeting of St. Pancras Members at 3 p.m.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9, Grafton-street, Piccadilly, W. December 13th, 8 p.m. "The Military Future of Europe," by Mr. H. C. O'Neill (Military Expert). Chairman, The Lady Emmott.

THE NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN SUFFRAGE.—Public Meeting in the N.C.S. Hall, Park Mansions' Arcade, Knightsbridge, S.W., on Tuesday, Dec. 12th, at 3 p.m.—"Pro-Ally America," by the Rev. Frank I. Paradise, of Boston, U.S.A. Admission Free.

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[*Continued on page 467.*

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Continued from page 466.]

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